

*The President and Commissioners are authorized and empowered to pay all or a part of the cost of constructing said water system by the imposition and collection of special benefit assessments upon all properties in the Town, whether improved or unimproved, which abut a water line constructed by the Town. Such assessments may be fixed at a specific rate per front foot of each property benefitted and may be classified according to use, provided that the rate within each classification shall be uniform. The President and Commissioners may grant complete or partial exemptions to properties actually in use for religious or charitable purposes and may also provide a limitation on the number of front feet to be assessed in the case of large parcels of land actually in use for agriculture by the owners thereof. With respect to properties located beyond the corporate limits of the Town, no water lines shall be constructed unless and until the owners of the properties benefitted enter into contracts with the Town, binding on such owners and their successors to pay the special benefit assessments imposed on like properties in the Town.*

*Before finally deciding upon the special benefit assessments to be imposed, the President and Commissioners shall hold a public hearing after publication of notice thereof for at least two successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town, and after introduction of a proposed ordinance setting forth the rates of such special assessments, which shall be duly posted in the Municipal Office and shall be available for public inspection. The special benefit assessments finally determined upon by the President and Commissioners may not be increased after their adoption except in cases where the use of a particular property is changed from one classification to another.*

*In order to provide for the maintenance and operation of said water supply and distribution system, the President and Commissioners are authorized and empowered, from time to time, to fix rates or charges for water consumption calculated to produce sufficient revenue to pay the cost of such maintenance and operation. Said rates may be measured on a metered basis, if meters are installed, or on a flat rate basis depending upon use, or on the number of water outlets on each property, or on such other equitable and uniform basis as may be most appropriate for the Town.*

*In order to provide in whole or in part for the construction of said water system, the President and Commissioners may accept and receive grants and contributions from any public or private source and, in addition, may borrow money and evidence the same by the issuance of the bonds of the Town pursuant to the authority of Sections 31 to 39, inclusive, of Article 23A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition, as amended). The President and Commissioners shall provide for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds from revenue derived from special benefit assessments, imposed as above authorized, and from ad valorem taxes levied by the President and Commissioners upon all property within the corporate limits of the Town sufficient in rate and amount in each year to make up any deficiency in said revenue for said purpose.*

*In addition to the specific authority and power hereby conferred, the President and Commissioners, in the operation and maintenance of said water system, shall have all the power and authority at any time conferred by the laws of Maryland on public bodies or other agencies of the State operating and maintaining water supply and distribution systems, including grants of financial assistance for such construction, maintenance and operation. In addition, said water supply and distribution system shall at all times be constructed, maintained and operated in accord-*